

White Space - Taking Part in the Revolution

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It would have been hard, to say the least, not to have heard the buzz about white space within the telecommunications industry in the last year.

What is white space? Put as simply as possible, white space involves the utilization of vacant television spectrum for radio communications.

White space has been of huge interest to networks and equipment providers all over the world: Hardly surprising when you consider that white space represents a bigger spectrum opportunity than the entire 3G auction. It has excellent propagation characteristics, excellent range, requires low power, and, best of all, is unlicensed, free spectrum.

By its nature white space is also perfectly suited to applications such as M2M comms and rural broadband; two areas set to explode over the next year.

White space is, without a doubt, the biggest thing to happen to medium-range communications since cellular telephony itself. With the technology inching closer to real-world deployment it's a very exciting time to be in the field.

Over the next few months, I'll be offering some insider-insights into white space. I'll be touching on topics as diverse as applications, standards, security, data usage patterns and deployment scenarios.

As the future of white space is hammered out over the next few months, networks, equipment providers and end-device designers with an interest in these lucrative opportunities really can't afford not to be at the table.

White space will prove to be one of the biggest opportunities in telco in recent decades, and it is my hope that I can briefly introduce wireless designers to some of the topline issues at stake.

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